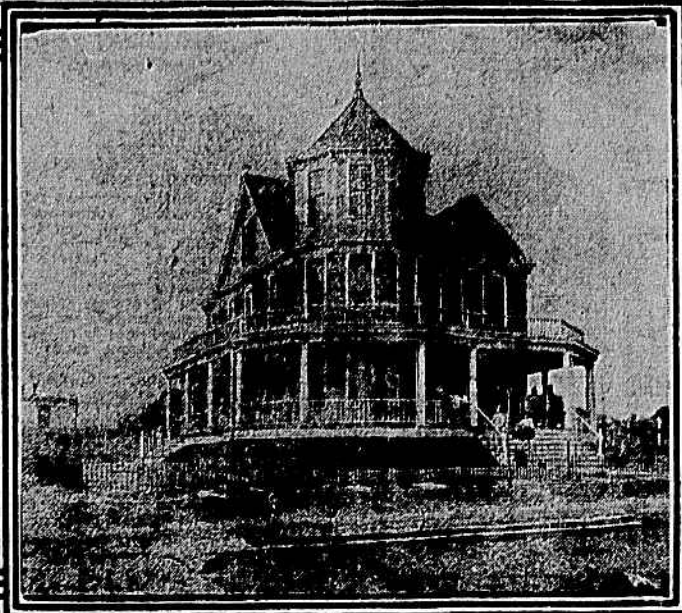


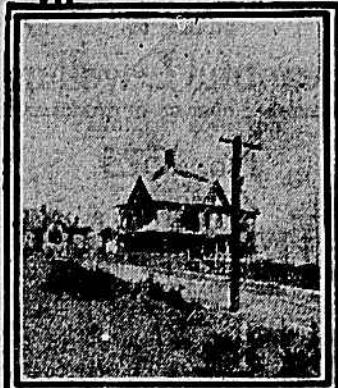
HANDSOME HOMES IN CREWE



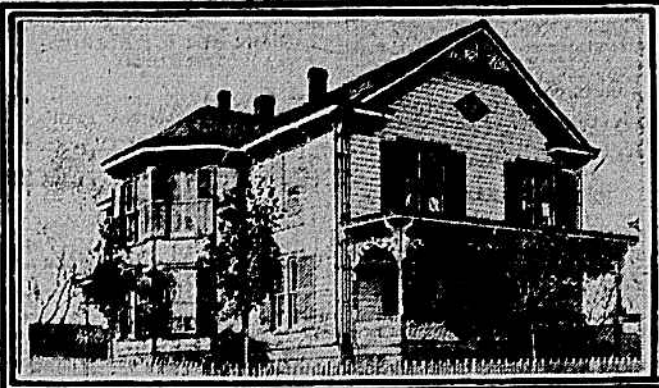
NEWEST BUSINESS BLOCK



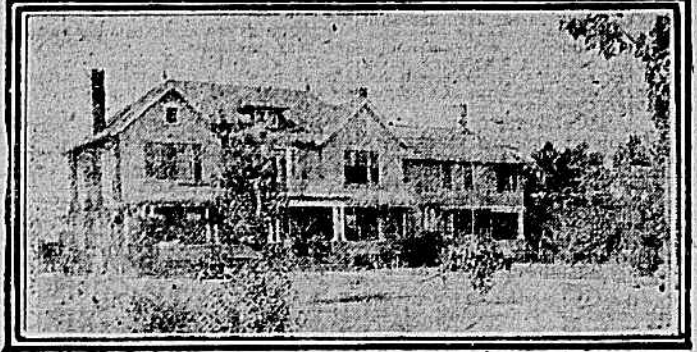
RES. OF W.A. LENEAVE



RES. OF G.E. WILSON



RES. OF W.W. GUY



RES. OF V.A. RITTON

HISTORY OF CREW
WIDE-AWAKE TOWN

(Continued From First Page.)

road, is the home of a large number of road men who man the trains, such as conductors, engineers, brakemen, etc. These, who make their homes in Crewe, number about 100. The offices of the division superintendent and train dispatchers keep quite another hundred high-priced men busy. At least 450 more men, conductors, engineers, brakemen, etc., whose runs are on the division west of Crewe, and have their homes in Crewe, either as owners or renters. The pay rolls of the shops and the train forces are enough within themselves to make the town one of commercial and financial importance.

A majority—a large majority—of the men who work in the shops and who run the trains on the eastern division are men of families, and have homes in Crewe. The shops and the train forces are enough within themselves to make the town one of commercial and financial importance.

The offices of the division superintendent, Mr. V. A. Ritton, employs a number of clerks, accountants, bookkeepers, etc., and altogether the railroad colony is sufficient of itself to make a considerable town, both in population and money distributing capacity.

Notwithstanding the fact that the town was built in the meantime Crewe, being the "baby" of the railroad, the Norfolk and Western has always nourished it, and some of the homes of the railroad men were built by the company and its employees. The splendid home of the division superintendent, just completed, is a sample in evidence.

But the railroad and its holdings and its enterprises are not all of the town of Crewe, not by a large majority. This fact is not altogether in accord with the generally accepted idea, but, generally accepted, it is wrong, far wrong. It is true that the railroad company owns a great deal of property here, including a long strip of land lying between its tracks, shops, station, depots, etc., and the town proper, the business centre of which is a quarter of a mile hence. There are, outside of the shops, depots and residences of officers but few buildings on this property of the company. Hence people viewing Crewe from the car windows of passing trains conceive the erroneous idea that there is nothing here but the railway interest, and that that makes up but a straggling sort of a town.

They have been told before they have been told beyond the railway strip, a quarter of a mile beyond this fringe, there is a busy and wide-awake town of 2,500 people; a place of handsome homes, of active merchants, of energetic manufacturers, of sedate and staid business bankers, of schools and churches; a place well laid out into wide streets and beautiful avenues, and altogether a town which had Goldsmith lived until now, might well inspire him to write sweet verses about another "Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain."

Twentieth Century Merchants.

With a large population as it has, and that made up in the main of people who earn good money, Crewe has naturally attracted live and energetic merchants. There are merchants here to-day who can show their thousands of dollars in cash, and who have been in the business for years.

street, and some of them carry stocks and do a business that would be a credit to the larger cities of Virginia.

All classes of stores flourish here, from the large groceries, dry goods houses, department stores, furniture and hardware and farm implement stores, down to the fruit stands and cigar stores, and, as far as I can see, all are doing a lively business, even at this dull part of a year that was ushered in with a panic in its mouth. The merchants here, combined, do a business of from \$350,000 to \$450,000 a year. It is pretty much all retail business, only one or two of the houses attempting a wholesale department, and that on a limited scale. However, there is a good back country to support Crewe, and a wholesaler or two to look after the interest of the country merchants within a circle of twenty-five miles around would probably do well in the place.

Flour and Meal Factory.

The Crewe Roller Mills were established fifteen years ago, and with exception of the usual ups and downs to which all new enterprises in a new place are subjected, the mills have been a success from the beginning. The plant is equipped with all of the necessary improved machinery, consisting of rollers, disintegrators, elevators, etc.

The present owners, Messrs. Burlon & Guy, have within the last eighteen months put in \$2,000 worth of new machinery, making the mills strictly up-to-date. The daily capacity is fifty-five barrels of flour and 150 bushels of meal. Formerly the mills sent West for all of its grain, but within a few years the farmers of Nottoway county around and about Crewe have been giving more attention to the cultivation of grain, and are now raising more than necessary to meet home demand. The result is that these mills are getting more than half of the necessary raw material right at home, making Crewe quite a grain market. The balance of the wheat and corn required to keep the mills busy come from the West in carload lots. The mills are worked to the utmost capacity, and the product finds ready local sale, and a good trade has been built up at points along the Norfolk and Western road.

Busy Woodworkers.

The Crewe Lumber and Manufacturing Company have a complete up-to-date woodworking plant, and extensive dealers in dressed lumber for all manner of building purposes. They make sash, blinds, doors and coffins, and do a general planing mill business. They own sawmills in the heavily wooded lands near town which have a capacity of 15,000 feet per day. All of this lumber and much more, bought from other mills, is prepared for building purposes in the works here. Notwithstanding the duller times that followed last year's panic, there has been no letting up in building operations in this progressive town, and hence the local demand has been sufficient to keep the planing mills going on full time. However, they have a good trade along the Norfolk and Western road and their shipments are large. The officers of the company are W. D. Shuffelbarger, president; E. E. Fargus, general manager, and A. Z. Woody, secretary and treasurer.

The lumber interest of Crewe is large, it being the shipping point and the banking town for a number of country saw-mills and lumber plants in Nottoway county within a circle of ten miles around. Vast quantities of timber, dressed and undressed, are shipped from here, and this ought not to be.

It ought to be worked up right here that the town may get all the "trimmings" in the way of wages to workmen, and the good things which they buy, and the reorganized Board of Trade is going to see to it that it is.

near future there shall be many more woodworking establishments in Crewe; but of this I will speak later.

The Standard Oil Company has made Crewe one of its largest distributing points on the Norfolk and Western road. They have erected here immense tanks, and from this point they supply oil to neighboring towns, as well as looking after the local trade.

Banks and Bankers.

The Crewe Agency, recently established under the management of C. B. Lane, is intended to exploit Crewe and the surrounding country. Incidentally, the agency will do a life insurance business, a merchandise brokerage business, and will maintain a department for the sale of all manner of manufactured articles. Salesmen will be sent throughout this region, and they will carry the story of Crewe's greatness far and near. That this will grow into a wholesaling business on a large scale, there is scarcely a doubt.

The two banks in the town, which do a flourishing business, have total assets amounting to \$285,000. The Bank of Crewe was established in 1883, soon after the town was incorporated, and has been growing ever since. The officers are William Hodges Mann, president; C. E. Wilson, vice-president; J. P. Agnew, cashier, and E. E. Moore, assistant cashier. The board of directors is made up of some of the best business men of the town. The authorized capital of the bank is \$150,000, paid-up capital \$45,000, surplus and undivided profits \$20,800, deposits \$225,000, loans and stocks and bonds \$24,000, total assets, \$320,000. The bank owns the handsome building in which it does business, and which is valued at \$7,000.

The Citizens' Bank was established in 1903. The president is T. J. Sowers, a leading merchant, who was one of the pioneers of the town. W. P. Shuffelbarger is vice-president, and A. J. Woody, another pioneer, and an "old timer" telegraph operator, is the cashier. The authorized capital of this bank is \$50,000, paid-up capital \$22,850, surplus and undivided profits \$3,500, deposits \$25,000, loans and discounts \$40,000, total assets, \$65,000. A general banking and collection business is done. The two banks of the town stand as high as any in the State.

Handsome Homes Are Numerous.

The Crewe Land and Improvement Company, formerly known as the Virginia Land and Improvement Company, as before stated, laid off the town, and in the beginning owned pretty much all of the ground upon which it stands. It started by building this company built seventy-five houses, which were marked for rent and for sale. They still own about fifty houses in the town, but have sold off nearly all of their vacant lots within the corporate limits, and the same have been built upon. The company still own about eighty acres west and south of the corporate limits, and they have had numerous offers for it as acreage, but they refuse to sell except as building lots, believing that in time—and a short time at that—this property will be required for the extension of the town, for just now there is not a vacant house in Crewe, and many residences are overcrowded. The company also owns the water works. The officers are J. H. Dingee, of Philadelphia, president; J. M. Wigram, secretary and treasurer, and J. P. Agnew, local agent.

For some reason that nobody understands, an impression has gone abroad that Crewe is a town of very cheap houses and shacks. A greater mistake was never made. It is true that when the shops were located here twenty years ago and the army of railroad men came to the old field, many houses for their accommodation were hurriedly built, but the most of these were only temporary structures, and have long since been pulled down to make room for permanent homes. There is no town in the State that is blessed with handsomer, more substantial and more lovely homes, and it may be remarked in this connection that no town of its size and age in the South has better church edifices. The Episcopal, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist and Christian denominations are represented here, and all have large and handsome churches. The Baptists have recently improved and enlarged their church building, expending \$6,000 to \$8,000 on it, making it now an \$18,000 edifice. The Methodists are now building and will have completed within the year a \$15,000 brick church.

Flourishing Y. M. C. A.

The Railroad Y. M. C. A., which has a membership of 35, not all railroad men, however, owns a splendid building on Carolina Avenue, which is elaborately equipped with reading-rooms, game-rooms, bathrooms, gymnasium, etc. There is a large and commodious

auditorium, and on the street floor there are two storerooms, one of which is occupied by the Citizens' Bank and the other by a general store. The association has completed arrangements and have the money in hand to erect a \$20,000 brick building, and it is intended to make this one of the best equipped Y. M. C. A. buildings in the State. The Norfolk and Western Railway Company, which has always been liberal to the association, will contribute \$10,000 to the new building and it will be erected on their lands.

Benevolent societies and fraternal organizations flourish in Crewe, as they do in but few Virginia towns. The Masons are very strong, and own a handsome temple; the Odd-Fellows have a flourishing lodge; as have also the Knights of Pythias, the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, the Woodmen of the World, and the Knights of Honor.

The railroad men, of course, have all sorts of organizations, among them the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors, of Firemen, of Railway Carmen of America, of Trainmen, of

the Order of Telegraphers and a machinists' union.

The women folks also have their orders, all of which have large memberships. Among these are Eastern Star (Masonic), Rebekah Assembly (Odd-Fellows), and auxiliaries of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and of Railway Conductors.

Base and Bluff of It All.

The farm lands surrounding Crewe, and in fact all of the lands of Nottoway county, are very productive and well adapted to the cultivation of grain, tobacco, grasses, vegetables, etc., but like many lands in Southside Virginia, they have been neglected and to a great extent have suffered from "scratching" done by inferior negro labor. It has been demonstrated within the past five or six years that they can be made as productive as any lands in Virginia or anywhere else. Mr. T. O. Sandy has been a great demonstrator along these lines, but he is not alone in the good work. Numbers of Nottoway county farmers who own lands near Crewe have done quite as well as Mr. Sandy, and it is now known that what was regarded by the "scratchers" as worn out land, is bringing grasses, grain, vegetables, etc., in quantities that pay enormous profits.

Mr. Thomas B. Oliver, a prominent merchant, banker and business man generally of Crewe, has given much attention to the improvement of lands hereabout. Twelve years ago he bought lands near Crewe at a mere song and went to work intelligently to bring them out. He makes hay, peas, corn, wheat, oats, etc., and declares that he can raise anything profitably that grows on any other Virginia ground. The lands he bought twelve years ago for a trifling price cannot be bought to-day for \$100 per acre. Mr. Oliver, by the way, is an extensive builder of houses in Crewe. He is now putting up a number of homes in the northeast part of the town and developing that end of it by laying off new streets and avenues.

The Nottoway Realty Company is making known to the world the value of the lands in this part of the State. Messrs. J. A. Harper and B. H. May, who form this company, handle farm and timber lands exclusively, and they have induced many Westerners and Northerners to locate in this region, and all of them are doing well.

Only last month they sold farms near here to expert farmers from Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Messrs. Lee & Ord are also extensive dealers in farm lands and timbered territory.

What the Town Has Done.

Crewe has always been blessed with a stable town government. Dr. E. T. Jones has been its mayor, and Dr. E. T. Jones has been its ex-officio president of the Council. The city fathers have put down 7,000 linear feet of granite sidewalks and about 20,000 feet of gravel walks, which, owing to the advantageous location of the town, does almost as well as the costlier sidewalks. The town has a first-class vol-

unteer fire department, which has all of the equipment necessary to fight fire. The municipal government has never yet contracted a debt, and to-day owes not a cent.

The water works are owned by the Crewe Land and Improvement Company. The company has two tanks of 50,000 gallons each, located on the high point in the town. Into these tanks water is pumped from a nearby creek, which, however, is not well located for the purpose, and there is loud complaint that the company has not come up to expectation in furnishing good water and in putting in a promised sewer system.

The people are getting very tired waiting for that sewer system, and it is very certain that another water company coming here to furnish better water, which can be had, and maintain a sewer system, would receive all the encouragement needed and make money on the investment. A dozen good springs furnish superior drinking water.

More Light Coming.

Mr. C. E. Wilson, a local capitalist, and one of the wide-awake men of Crewe, has recently organized a syndicate to erect an electric light plant. A site has been acquired and the necessary side-tracks are now being put in. As soon as they are completed the machinery which has been purchased and is now in the depot, will be installed, and by the time Jack Frost arrives the first rays of electric light will be shining over Crewe.

The railway company has an electric plant which lights up its shops and yards, extending more than a mile and a quarter along its tracks. The public school building, one of the finest and best in the State, was recently told about in The Times-Dispatch, and need not be further commented upon now.

Much Undeveloped Power.

As a business town and as a place of residence, Crewe has no superior in the State, and I very believe it is destined to be a manufacturing centre that will make it one of the rich of Virginia. Every condition is favorable to such a conclusion. The raw material is here, and the water-power nearby only needs development to furnish power for as much machinery as is kept in motion on Fall River. The famous Nottoway Falls are less than ten miles distant, and with even limited development this power could be turned into electric currents that will light up and furnish unlimited power for Crewe, Burkeville, Blackstone, Kenbridge, Victoria and other places.

Four miles distant the Nottoway Milling Company has a water-power which is even to be developed, under the management of Mr. W. I. Jones. There is already there a dam twelve feet high.

This is to be raised four feet and an electric plant put in, which it is believed will furnish enough power by wire to keep Crewe and the other towns named lighted and machinery going for a long time to come. Smaller powers, one only a half mile out, are in convenient places, and these only need development to put any amount of machinery in motion.

The forests surrounding Crewe are rich in timber that ought to be and will be worked up in the town. Among

Leaky Roof!
Damp Wall!

STOP-A-LEAK!
NO-A-LEAK!
ALCATRAZ ASPHALT
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Is guaranteed to make roofs and damp walls waterproof or no charge. We will sell you the paint or do the work. Roofs and walls examined. No charge for estimate and advice. Write or Phone for printed matter on how to paint and repair roofs and damp walls.

The Alcatraz Company,
1303 E. Main St. Phone 2783.
RICHMOND, - - - VIRGINIA.

the wood-working establishments that would flourish here may be mentioned handle, hub and spoke factories, head, in mill or do the work. Roofs and walls examined. No charge for estimate and advice. Write or Phone for printed matter on how to paint and repair roofs and damp walls.

The one thing that the town needs, just now more than anything else, is a good hotel. The people as well as travelers recognize this fact, and I am authorized to say that if a practical hotel man, who has enough capital to get down to business and run a good house will correspond with the officers of the Board of Trade he will learn something to his interest. In fact, local capitalists stand with the money ready to build a good house for the man who will take hold of it with a determination to run it as a hotel of this size ought to be run. Such a house would make a good thing out of the drummers alone, who would make Crewe a layover point, if they had a good place to stop. There is a bright future before the town of Crewe. Its location is admirable, the raw material for industries of the kind named is plentiful, freight rates to all parts of the world are favorable, and it seems to me capital will find here all that it is looking for. It will not find a better location in Virginia.

This is YOUR Chance, Boys! Girls!
A Fine Pony and Cart
to be Given to YOU!

Here you are, boys and girls! A beautiful little Pony that is gentle and a splendid driver; and also a handsome Cart—made to last and looks fine—will be given by The Times-Dispatch to the boy or girl receiving the largest number of votes by September 25, 1908. Think of it! Think of a Pony and Cart all your own.

Other Valuable Articles, Such as Gold Watches, Books, Etc.

To the boy receiving the second largest number of votes we will give ONE FINE GOLD WATCH, fully guaranteed.
To the girl receiving the second largest number of votes we will give ONE FINE GOLD WATCH (girl's size), fully guaranteed.
To the boy receiving the third largest number of votes we will give ONE LARGE BOX OF BEST GRADE TOOLS (not a toy, but A REAL FULL-SIZED SET).

To the girl receiving the third largest number of votes we will give a SET OF TWELVE BEAUTIFUL BOOKS.
To the boy receiving the fourth largest number of votes we will give ONE "IRISH MAIL."
To the girl receiving the fourth largest number of votes we will give choice of ONE "IRISH MAIL" or ONE 21-INCH DRESSED DOLL.

Coupon Good for 5 Votes To-Day---Conditions of Contest

The coupon printed by The Times-Dispatch to-day counts FIVE votes.

We will print a coupon each day for one vote.

There is another way to get votes rapidly. Votes will be given with each paid-in-advance subscription to The Times-Dispatch, according to the scale printed below. We allow more votes on NEW subscriptions than on RENEWALS; therefore, be careful to state which you send in.

The Contest Will Close at 6 P. M., September 25, 1908

The quicker you get to work to earn a prize the better. The votes will be counted each week, and the number received by each contestant printed in The Times-Dispatch on Sundays. The ballot-box will be unlocked, the final count made, and the prize-winners announced on above date.

Schedule of Votes Allowed on
Subscriptions:

	New Votes.	Renewal Votes.
Twelve months' subscription, Daily and Sunday.....	800	400
Six months' subscription, Daily and Sunday.....	800	150
Three months' subscription, Daily and Sunday.....	120	60
Twelve months' subscription, Daily without Sunday.....	700	350
Six months' subscription, Daily without Sunday.....	250	130
Three months' subscription, Daily without Sunday.....	80	40
Twelve months' subscription, Sunday only.....	400	200
Six months' subscription, Sunday only.....	140	70

OUT-OF-TOWN RATES:

	One Year.	Six Months.	Three Months.
BY MAIL. Postage Prepaid. Daily with Sunday (7 issues).....	\$6.00	\$3.00	\$1.50
Daily without Sunday (6 issues).....	4.00	2.00	1.00
Sunday edition only.....	2.00	1.00

CITY RATES:

	Twelve Months.	Six Months.	Three Months.
BY TIMES-DISPATCH CARRIER DELIVERY SERVICE IN RICHMOND AND SUBURBS, MANCHESTER AND PETERSBURG. (Payable in Advance.)			
Daily with Sunday.....	\$6.50	\$3.25	\$1.75
Daily without Sunday.....	4.50	2.25	1.25
Sunday only.....	2.50	1.25

The Quicker You Begin the Better!
The Harder You Work the Better!

All boys and girls anywhere, between the ages of six and sixteen years, may enter contest. Children whose parents work for or are in any way connected with The Times-Dispatch cannot enter contest.

Write or call at Times-Dispatch office for full information, receipt books, etc. Sample copies will be sent if desired. Address all communications to

"PONY CONTEST," care of The Times-Dispatch.

5 Votes---Good for 5

Cut out, fill out and mail for FIVE VOTES in The Times-Dispatch Pony Contest.

I CAST FIVE VOTES FOR

Name.....

Post-Office.....

Street No..... State.....

This Ballot Must Be Voted Before July 10, 1908.